

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A computer system, comprising:

2 a processor;

3 at least one input/output device coupled to said processor;

4 a flashable ROM device coupled to said processor and containing a configuration table; and

5 a non-volatile, non-flashable memory device coupled to said processor and containing a
6 extension configuration table;

7 wherein configuration information can be added to the computer system by storing such
8 configuration information in the non-volatile, non flashable memory device.

1 2. The computer system of claim 1 wherein, upon executing a set-up routine to configure the
2 computer system for a newly installed device, said processor examines the flashable ROM device
3 to determine whether configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is present
4 and, if not, said processor then examines the non-volatile, non-flashable memory device to
5 determine whether the configuration information pertaining to the newly installed device is
6 present.

1 3. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said non-volatile, non-flashable memory device
2 comprises a non-volatile RAM device.

1 4. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table and said extension
2 configuration table include a plurality of entries with each entry including an option identifier and
3 corresponding configuration data.

1 5. The computer system of claim 4 wherein each option identifier and corresponding
2 configuration data pertain to a circuit board.

1 6. The computer system of claim 2 wherein said configuration table includes a plurality of
2 entries with each entry including a board identifier and corresponding configuration data.

1 7. The computer system of claim 6 wherein said extension configuration table includes
2 storage capacity for a plurality of entries that include a board identifier and corresponding
3 configuration data.

1 8. A method of configuring a computer, comprising:
2 adding a device to the computer;
3 first searching a ROM memory in which configuration information is stored for the
4 configuration information pertaining to the added device; and
5 then, if the configuration is not found in the ROM memory, searching a non-volatile RAM
6 memory for the configuration information.

1 9. The method of claim 8 further including:
2 flashing the ROM memory; and

3 determining whether any entries in the ROM memory duplicate entries in the non-volatile
4 RAM memory; and
5 if one or more duplicates are found, clearing the one or more duplicate entries from the
6 non-volatile RAM memory.

1 10. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes circuit board
2 identifiers and corresponding configuration data.

1 11. The method of claim 9 wherein the configuration information includes operating system
2 data.

1 12. The method of claim 8 further including storing configuration information in said non-
2 volatile RAM memory instead of in the ROM memory when said device is added to the computer.

1 13. A method of flashing a ROM containing configuration information with a new set of
2 configuration information in a computer system also including an NVRAM which contains an
3 extension table having storage for configuration information, wherein new configuration is added
4 to the NVRAM extension table instead of the ROM, said method comprising:

5 comparing entries in the new set of configuration information to be stored in the ROM
6 against entries in the extension table in the NVRAM;

7 if a matching pair of entries is found, deleting the corresponding entry from the NVRAM;

8 and

9 storing the new set of configuration information in the ROM.

- 1 14. The method of claim 13 wherein the configuration information comprises board identifiers
- 2 and corresponding configuration data.

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